

CONFIDENTIAL COPY

5 **MAINTAINING EYE-CONTACT IN TELECONFERENCING
USING STRUCTURED LIGHT**

CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS

10 This application is a Continuation Application of U.S. Patent Application Ser.
No. 10/121,562, filed April 11, 2002, and Provisional Patent Application Ser.
No. 60/283,158, filed April 11, 2001, which are incorporated herein in its
entirety by this reference made thereto.

15 **BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION**

TECHNICAL FIELD

The invention relates to teleconferencing. In particular, the invention relates to
20 methods and systems that permit the appearance of eye-contact to be
maintained between participants in a teleconference.

DESCRIPTION OF THE PRIOR ART

25 A primary concern with video teleconferencing systems is the frequent lack of
eye-contact between participants. In the most common configuration, each
participant uses a computer monitor on which an image of the remote
participant is displayed, while a camera mounted above the monitor captures
an image of the local participant for display on the monitor of the remote
30 participant. Because participants frequently look at either at the image of the
remote participant or elsewhere on the display, rather than directly at the
video camera, there is the appearance that the participants are not looking at
one another. This results in an unsatisfactory user experience.

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